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S/N 10/522,045

PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant: | OKAMOTO ET AL. | Examiner: | SHAW |
| Serial No.: | 10/522,045 | Group Art Unit: | 1634 |
| Filed: | JANUARY 19, 2005 | Docket No.: | 10873.1576USWO |
| Title: | MICROORGANISM OR CELL COLLECTION METHOD, AND MICROORGANISM OR CELL COLLECTING IMPLEMENT USED FOR THE METHOD | | |

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.6(d): I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 15, 2007.

By

Name: Gina M. Dahl

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants elect Group I (claims 1 to 12) in response to the Restriction Requirement of January 18, 2007.

Applicants traverse the requirement to the extent that the claims in Group III are eligible for reinstatement for allowance through their dependence on the Group I claims.

Applicants further traverse the finding that there is no common special technical feature for the various groups of claims. All of the claims provide a water-absorbing resin that can collect a microorganism or a cell by catching on the surface of a water-absorbing resin. Applicants respectfully contend that this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by the reference cited to justify the restriction.

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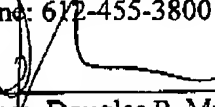
PATENT

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3478.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 15, 2007

By 
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